

February 12, 2001

The Honorable Curtis L. Hébert, Jr.  
Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 1st Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Re: Avista Corporation, The Bonneville Power Administration, Idaho Power Company, The Montana Power Company, Nevada Power Company, PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric Company, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., and Sierra Pacific Power Company (“RTO West Filing Utilities”), Docket No. RT01-35-000**

**Avista Corporation, The Montana Power Company, Nevada Power Company, Portland General Electric Company, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., and Sierra Pacific Power Company (“TransConnect Filing Utilities”), Docket No. RT01-15-000**

Dear Chairman Hébert:

On October 16, October 23, and December 1, 2000, the RTO West Filing Utilities filed a “Stage 1” proposal to establish RTO West. On October 16, 2000, the TransConnect Filing Utilities separately filed a proposal to establish an independent transmission company within RTO West.

Since making their initial filings, the RTO West and TransConnect Filing Utilities have continued to work (on separate tracks) to advance their proposals. However, both RTO West and TransConnect are reaching points where clear Commission rulings would be invaluable in maintaining momentum in their development processes. Early action by the Commission will further enable all involved parties to productively and efficiently focus their efforts where they are most needed. The RTO West and TransConnect Filing Utilities, therefore, respectfully request the Commission act as soon as practicable on the subject filings.

The RTO West and TransConnect Filing Utilities recognize the Commission's own resources are limited. However, any assistance the Commission can provide to expedite consideration of the above filings would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

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cc: The Honorable William L. Massey  
Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

The Honorable Linda K. Breathitt  
Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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